

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 16-29 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)

Shinkawa (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0128232) is cited as 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) prior art in rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants, through their undersigned representative, make the following statement as to common ownership to disqualify the reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art:

Application No. 10/806,031 (the present application) and U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0128232 (the cited reference) were each, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to Seiko Epson Corporation.

For these reasons, the Shinkawa reference (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0128232) reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and 706.02(l)(2).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 16-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of prior art. All of the prior art combinations relied on for rejecting these claims include Shinkawa (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0128232). As

established above by the Statement of Common Ownership under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Shinkawa is disqualified as prior art in rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

For these reasons, Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 16-29 define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

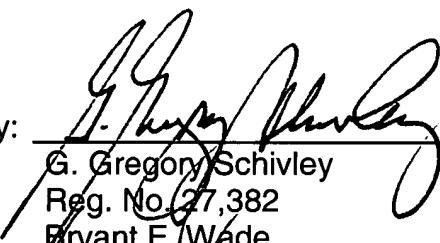
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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